

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for dynamically developing a user interface in an existing software application, comprising:

invoking a user interface developer component for creating the user interface during the execution of the software application from within the software application;

identifying one or more fields to include in the user interface;

associating a field type for each of the identified one or more fields;

associating the user interface with a function of the software application;

saving the identified one or more fields, associated field types, and the association of the user interface to the function of the software application in a user interface definition file; and

generating the user interface when the associated function is triggered based on the user interface definition file during the execution of the software application.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:
providing one or more values for at least one of the identified one or more fields depending upon the associated field type; and
saving the one or more values in the user interface definition file.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the user interface definition file is saved as an XML file.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the generating includes parsing the user interface definition file to generate the user interface.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 4, wherein the generating further includes transforming the parsed user interface definition file into one or more objects.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 5, wherein the one or more objects are Java objects.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 5, wherein the generating further includes displaying the user interface based on the one or more objects.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the user interface developer component is implemented as a plug-in for the software application.

9. (Currently Amended) A software application operable on a computer system having a user interface developer component for dynamically developing a user interface for the software application, the software application configured to:

invoke the user interface developer component for creating the user interface during the execution of the software application from within the software application;

identify one or more fields to include in the user interface;

associate a field type for each of the identified one or more fields;

associate the user interface with a function of the software application;

save the identified one or more fields, associated field types, and the associated function in a user interface definition file; and

generate the user interface when the associated function is triggered based on the user interface definition file during the execution of the software application.

10. (Original) A software application according to claim 9, further configured to:

provide one or more values for at least one of the identified one or more fields depending upon the associated field type; and

save the one or more values in the user interface definition file.

11. (Original) A software application according to claim 9, wherein the user interface definition file is saved as an XML file.

12. (Original) A software application according to claim 9, further configured to parse the user interface definition file to generate the user interface.

13. (Original) A software application according to claim 12, further configured to transform the parsed user interface definition file into one or more objects.

14. (Original) A software application according to claim 13, wherein the one or more objects are Java objects.

15. (Original) A software application according to claim 13, further configured to display the user interface based on the one or more objects.

16. (Original) A software application according to claim 9, wherein the user interface developer component is implemented as a plug-in for the software application.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer system for dynamically developing a user interface for a software application, comprising:

a processor; and

a memory, coupled to the processor, comprising a plurality of instructions executed by the processor, the plurality of instructions configured to:

invoke a user interface developer component for creating the user interface during the execution of the software application from within the software application;

identify one or more fields to include in the user interface;

associate a field type for each of the identified one or more fields;

associate the user interface with a function of the software application;

save the identified one or more fields, associated field types, and the association of the user interface to the function of the software application in a user interface definition file; and

generate the user interface when the associated function is triggered based on the user interface definition file during the execution of the software application.

18. (Original) A computer system according to claim 17, the memory further comprising instructions configured to:

provide one or more values for at least one of the identified one or more fields depending upon the associated field type; and
save the one or more values in the user interface definition file.

19. (Original) A computer system according to claim 17, wherein the user interface definition file is saved as an XML file.

20. (Original) A computer system according to claim 17, the memory further comprising an instruction configured to parse the user interface definition file to generate the user interface.

21. (Original) A computer system according to claim 20, the memory further comprising an instruction configured to transform the parsed user interface definition file into one or more objects.

22. (Original) A computer system according to claim 21, wherein the one or more objects are Java objects.

23. (Original) A computer system according to claim 21, the memory further comprising an instruction configured to display the user interface based on the one or more objects.

24. (Original) A computer system according to claim 17, wherein the user interface developer component is implemented as a plug-in for the software application.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium on a computer system having a user interface developer component for dynamically developing a user interface in a software application, the computer readable medium configured to:

invoke the user interface developer component for creating the user interface during the execution of the software application from within the software application;
identify one or more fields to include in the user interface;
associate a field type for each of the identified one or more fields;
associate the user interface with a function of the software application;
save the identified one or more fields, associated field types, and the association of the user interface to the function of the software application in a user interface definition file; and
generate the user interface when the associated function is triggered based on the user interface definition file during the execution of the software application.

26. (Original) A computer readable medium according to claim 25, further configured to:

provide one or more values for at least one of the identified one or more fields depending upon the associated field type; and
save the one or more values in the user interface definition file.

27. (Original) A computer readable medium according to claim 25, wherein the user interface definition file is saved as an XML file.

28. (Original) A computer readable medium according to claim 25, further configured to parse the user interface definition file to generate the user interface.

29. (Original) A computer readable medium according to claim 28, further configured to transform the parsed user interface definition file into one or more objects.

30. (Original) A computer readable medium according to claim 29, wherein the one or more objects are Java objects.

31. (Original) A computer readable medium according to claim 29, further configured to display the user interface based on the one or more objects.

32. (Original) A computer readable medium according to claim 25, wherein the user interface developer component is implemented as a plug-in for the software application.

33. (Currently Amended) A system for dynamically developing a user interface in an existing software application, comprising:

means for invoking a user interface developer component for creating the user interface during the execution of the software application from within the software application;

means for identifying one or more fields to include in the user interface;

means for associating a field type for each of the identified one or more fields;

means for associating the user interface with a function of the software application;

means for saving the identified one or more fields, associated field types, and the association of the user interface to the function of the software application in a user interface definition file; and

means for generating the user interface when the associated function is triggered based on the user interface definition file during the execution of the software application.

34. (Original) A system according to claim 33, further comprising:

means for providing one or more values for at least one of the identified one or more fields depending upon the associated field type; and

means for saving the one or more values in the user interface definition file.

35. (Original) A system according to claim 33, wherein the user interface definition file is saved as an XML file.

36. (Original) A system according to claim 33, wherein the means for generating includes means for parsing the user interface definition file to generate the user interface.

37. (Original) A system according to claim 36, wherein the means for generating further includes means for transforming the parsed user interface definition file into one or more objects.

38. (Original) A system according to claim 37, wherein the one or more objects are Java objects.

39. (Original) A system according to claim 37, wherein the means for generating further includes means for displaying the user interface based on the one or more objects.

40. (Original) A system according to claim 33, wherein the user interface developer component is implemented as a plug-in for the software application.

41. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the associated function is triggered in response to an input received by the software application.

42. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 41, wherein the input is a selection from a drop down menu of the software application.

43. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of associating the user interface with a function includes receiving a selection of the function from a list of functions of the software application.